

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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O 040400Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5564

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 09765

EXDIS

CORRECTED COPY PARA THREE LINE FIVE

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP CO

SUBJ: LETTER FROM SECY TO FORNMIN INDELECIO LIEVANO

REF BOGOTA 9728, STATE 241824, 241944 & 242116

THE FORNMIN RECEIVED ME AT 6PM NOV 4. HE READ THE LETTER FROM THE SECY AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION. HE DISCUSSED HIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ASST SECY ROGERS AND AMB VAKY AND ASKED ME WHAT HAD OCCASIONED THE CALL. I RESPONDED THAT HIS CRITICISM OF THE SECY'S ABSENCE FROM THE QUITO MEETING HAD COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPT AND I THOUGHT THAT ASST SECY ROGERS HAD WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR TO HIM PERSONALLY THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE QUITO MEETING DESPITE THE SECY'S ENFORCED ABSENCE.

LIEVANO THEN BEGAN TO DISCUSS THE PRESENT SITUATION. HE ASSERTED THAT THERE ARE NOW THIRTEEN FIRM VOTES IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA. GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA PREVIOUSLY COUNTED UPON TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION MUST NOW BE CONSIDERED DOUBTFUL. BRAZIL, HE NOTED REGRETFULLY, HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE ARMY AND HE BELIEVED THAT BRAZIL'S SUPPORT IS DOUBTFUL.

THE FORNMIN THEN SPOKE ELOQUENTLY OF THE NEED TO ENSURE THE RESOLUTION'S PASSAGE BY A TWO THIRDS VOTE. HE SAID THAT THE QUITO

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CONFERENCE REPRESENTED THE LAST CHANCE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF

THE RULE OF LAW AMONG STATES IN LA. HE STATED FURTHER THAT IF THE RESOLUTION ACHIEVES A MAJORITY VOTE BUT FAILS TO ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY TWO THIRDS, FIDEL CASTRO WILL HAVE WON, AND THE OAS WILL EMERGE AS A PAPER ORGANIZATION WITH THE MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS IN VIOLATION OF ITS RESOLUTIONS. LIEVANO EMPHASIZED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PRES FORD IS CAUGHT UP WITH PRESSING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND THAT THE SECY IS BUSY WITH THE PERENNIAL CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT HE SAID THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR THE PRES TO UNDERSTAND THAT A VOTE IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE SANCTIONS IS A VOTE AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO AND THAT AN ABSTENTION OR A VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION IS A VOTE IN FAVOR OF FIDEL CASTRO AND AGAINST THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

THE FORNMIN SPECIFICALLY ASKED ME TO REQUEST THE DEPT TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE GUATEMALA TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION. IF GUATEMALA VOTES IN FAVOR, HE SAID, NICARAGUA WILL FOLLOW AND WE COULD END UP WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION.

I INFORMED THE FORNMIN THAT ASST SECY ROGERS AND AMB MAILLARD WOULD SPEND WEDNESDAY EVENING IN BOGOTA. LIEVANO RESPONDED GRACIOUSLY THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO WELCOME THE PARTY AT THE AIRPORT. I SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT EXPECTED BUT THAT I WANTED HIM AWARE OF THEIR PLANS. LIEVANO SAID HE WOULD DEPART BOGOTA FOR QUITO. THURSDAY NOV 7 AT 8:45 AM. AND THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US DEL AT THE CONFERENCE.

WHITE

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. ELTZ.

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